

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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12

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4841

UNCLAS TOKYO 16274

OES/APT/BMP FOR RICHMOND

DEPT PASS TO DR. HOWARD R. ROBERTS, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF FOODS, FDA
200 C STREET, S.W., WASHINGTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, JA

SUBJECT: FDA REGULATIONS ON FOOD SAFETY

1. SCIENCE OFFICE HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM TAKASHI ICHIKAWA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DIV. OF PLANNING AND EVALUATION, BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, MIN. HEALTH AND WELFARE, IN EXPEDITING REPLY TO LETTER ICHIKAWA SENT TO DR. ROBERTS OF FDA DATED NOVEMBER 1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES FACT THAT REPLY CANNOT YET BE CONSIDERED "OVERDUE." HOWEVER, MINISTRY UNDER GUN BY OPPOSITION PARTIES IN DIET AND PRESSED BY OCAI CONSUMER GROUPS TO PROVIDE ANSWERS ON FOOD SAFETY QUESTIONS. MINISTRY WILL BASE OWN DECISIONS LARGELY ON RESPONSE OF U.S. FDA AND THUS IS ANXIOUS FOR ANSWER ASAP.

2. ICHIKAWA LETTER REQUESTS FDA POSITION OF FOUR ITEMS: VINYL CHLORIDE POLYMERS INFOOD PACKAGING, SAFETY OF RED NO. 2, USE OF NITRITE AS CURING AGENT IN MEAT, AND CYCLAMATES. FIRST THREE ITEMS MOST URGENT.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CHECKING WITH DR. ROBERTS' OFFICE ON STATUS OF REPLY TO ICHIKAWA LETTER. IF RESPONSE NOT YET SENT, PERHAPS INTERIM REPLY COULD BE CABLED TO ICHIKAWA THROUGH SCIENCE OFFICE. PLEASE ADVISE.
HODGSON

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